

Thaddeus Blood

Private in Captain Barrett's Concord Militia Company

"The causes which led to hostilities between Great Britain & America are well known, to all those acquainted with history. In October 177[4], Gen,l Gage...had dissolved...the Court, the greater part of the members met at Salem notwithstanding, & formed themselves into a provincial Congress...and adjourned to Concord and chose Mr. Hancock president – they secretly agreed to make preparations to oppose the acts of parliament until we should have redress of the grievances we complained of. (at that time and near a year after there was nothing said about Independence) - - The Congress recommended the forming of companies of Minute Men -- and the collecting of stores and equipment; a quantity of stores and cannon were collected and deposited in Concord, under the superintendence of Col. James Barrett...By his influence an armory for the manufacture of fire arms and manufacture of saltpetre was set up in Concord...In February 1775, the British attempted to take the cannon at Salem, but were disappointed, from that time there was a guard kept at Concord over the cannon & stores till 5 or 6 weeks after Concord Fight. Here it should be observed that we were then all British subjects...that all the services performed were voluntary...On the 19th of April 1775, about 2 o'clock in the morning I was called out of bed by John Barrett, a Sergeant of the militia company to which I belonged. (I was 20 years of age the 28th of May next following) I joined the company under Capt. Nathan Barrett at the old court house about 3 o'clock and was ordered to go into the court house to draw ammunition. After the company had all their ammunition we were paraded near the meeting house ...about 4, the several companies of Concord were joined by two companies from Lincoln...We were then formed, the minute on the right, & Capt. Barrett's on the left and marched in order to the end of Meriam's Hill...and saw the British a coming down Brook's hill. The sun shined on their arms & they made a noble appearance in their red coats. We retreated in order, over the top of the hill to the Liberty Pole erected on the height opposite the meeting house & made a halt, the main body of British marched up in the road & a detachment followed us over the hill & halted in half gun shot of us,...we then marched over the Burying ground to the road, and then over the bridge to Flint's Hill, or punckataissett, so called at that time & were followed by two companies of the British over the Bridge, one company went up to destroy some stores at Col. James Barrett's...& the [other] tarried near the Bridge some of them to Capt. David Brown's & some [to] Mr. Ephraim Buttrick's...About 9 o'clock we saw a smoke rise at the court house. It was proposed that we march into town...Col. James Barrett...rode along the line & having consulted with the officers...shouted not to fire first, they began their march.... The company of British formed first on the causeway...they then retreated over the bridge and in retreating took up 3 plank[s], and formed part in the road and part on each side, our men the same time marching in very good order, along the road in double file...At that time an officer rode up and a gun was fired. I saw where the Ball threw up the water about the middle of the river, then a second and third shot, and the cry "FIRE" was made from front to rear. The fire was almost simultaneous with the cry, & I think it was not more than 2 minutes if so much till the British run & the fire ceased—part of our men went over the Bridge & myself among the rest, & part returned to the ground they had left—after the fire every one appeared to be his own commander it was thot best to go to the east part of the Town & take them as they came back....."

